

Appendix 14

SCHOOLS BUDGET 2014/15

Background to the Schools Forum's recommendations.

1. Introduction

- 1.1. At the meeting of the Schools Forum on 15th January 2014 the final Schools Budget for 2014/15 as set out in Appendix 14 (i) was recommended to Cabinet for approval. This Appendix gives details of those recommendations.
- 1.2. The per pupil funding for 2014/15 will be £4,601 for the Schools Block and £3,916 for the Early Years Block. There is also an allocation of £2.627 million to fund 2 year old provision. The total funding for the High Needs Block is £15.684 million which includes placement and top up fees for special needs, special units and 16-19 Special needs pupils. The Department for Education (DfE) has also announced that the minimum funding guarantee (MFG) for 2014/15 will be the same as 2013/14 with schools receiving no less than 98.5% per pupil of their 2013/14 funding. Growth in primary pupil numbers means the total schools block has increased compared to 2013/14, consequently per pupil funding as an average across the borough's schools will increase slightly to £4,517.

2. Schools' Budget 2014/15

- 2.1 Appendix 14 (i) sets out the recommended Schools' Budget for 2014/15 and compares it to the 2013/14 Schools Budget and spending forecast. The Schools budget is split between the three Funding Blocks (i.e. Schools Block, High Needs Block and Early Years Block respectively) as per DfE fair funding reform.
- 2.2 The Schools Block is further split between Primary and Secondary phase schools. The Early Years block shows the breakdown between PVI provision, school nurseries and central expenditure. The High Needs block is broken by the different types of provision and between place funding and top up funding. Details of the Central expenditure of the Schools Budget are provided.
- 2.3 The changes to the 2014/15 schools budget when compared to 2013/14 are:
 - i. An increase in funding allocated to Primary Schools due to growth in pupil numbers and a higher lump sum being introduced to the funding formula.
 - ii. A decrease in Secondary School funding due to falling pupil numbers.

- iii. The Additional SEN allocations have now been brought into the formula funding as per the DfE regulations.
- iv. Increased 2 year old provision budget funded by the increased Early Years block.
- v. Increases in place and top up funding within the high needs block reflecting an increase in provision.
- vi. A reduction in the growth fund allocation due to revised criteria.
- vii. Removal of the Carbon Reduction Commitment budget as this will now be paid by the Department for Education.

2.4 The Schools Budget recommended for approval for 2014/15 will therefore total £137.510 million. This is an increase of £3.129 million on the 2013/14 Schools Budget of £134.380 million.

3. Impact of academies 2014/15

- 3.1 Appendix 14 (i) shows the total Schools' Budget including Academies. In practice, the DSG and the Schools' Budget will be reduced by:
- a) For mainstream Academies the formula share in the ISB;
 - b) For special Academies a pro rata share of place and top up funding within the High Needs Block.